

Honors College at WKU spotlighted in national guide

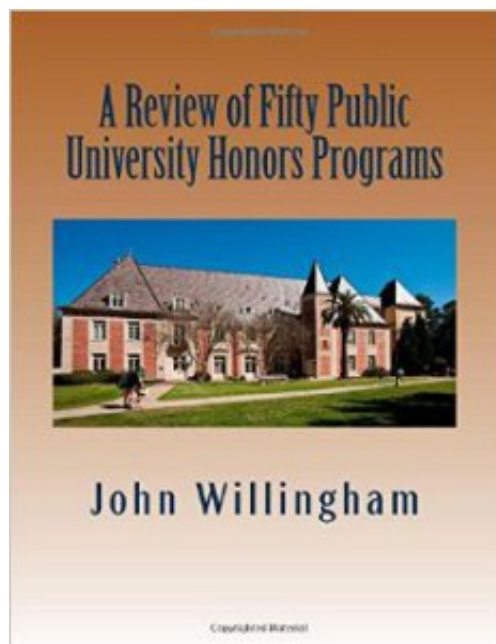


By WKU News
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The **Honors College at WKU** is one of five Master's Comprehensive public university honors colleges or programs in the United States profiled in the second edition of *A Review of Fifty Public University Honors Programs*.

“According to the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC), there are over 1,000 honors programs and colleges in the United States,” said Dr. Craig T. Cobane, Executive Director of the Honors College at WKU. “The recent book spotlighted the top 55 in the country; therefore, WKU is in the top 6 percent of all honors programs/colleges in the United States.”

The book, published by **Public University Press**, is the only publication that provides detailed ratings and reviews of major public honors colleges and honors programs and is widely used by honors administrators and college admissions consultants.



“Working with faculty across campus, the Honors College is helping WKU achieve its vision of becoming a leading American university with international reach,” Dr. Cobane said. “Over the past nine years, Honors at WKU has grown from a small program of a couple hundred students, which graduated 15 in 2005, to a nationally recognized Honors College with nearly 1,400 scholars, which will graduate over 200 students in the 2014-15 academic year.”

Construction is expected to be completed this year on the \$22 million, 67,000-square-foot Honors College and International Center on Normal Street.

The Honors College at WKU is helping improve the academic caliber of the entire university, Dr. Cobane said. “The academic strength and statewide reputation of the Honors College has drawn thousands of gifted and high ability students to WKU and helped increase the average ACT of the institution,” he said. “The goal of the Honors College has always been to do more than attract just the 1,200-plus scholars, but to assist WKU in becoming a destination point for academically motivated students across the Commonwealth and the nation. In that goal, we are succeeding.”

Through the auspices of the Honors College, the university-wide unit **Office of Scholar Development** (OSD) was created and has helped hundreds of students from all majors and colleges to earn millions of dollars of national scholarships, fellowships and research funding.

WKU was recently named among the **Top Fulbright Producing Institutions** by the Chronicle of Higher Education. J. William Fulbright scholarships are one of the most prestigious and recognized international awards available to undergraduates. With six grants for 2014-15, WKU is tied for third in the nation of Master's institutions and the only college or university in Kentucky to be recognized as a Top Producer.

The Honors College at WKU also is home to one of fewer than 15 federally funded **Chinese Language Flagship Programs**. The program helps WKU students, with no prior knowledge of Chinese, to reach superior level of fluency during their time at WKU.

“It is indeed an honor for WKU to be selected for inclusion in this publication of the top Public University Honors Programs,” WKU President Gary Ransdell said. “Such recognition starts with great faculty and depends on great students. We are fortunate to have both.”

For information about the Honors College at WKU, contact Allison Smith, Assistant Director for Recruitment, at (270) 745-2081 or allison.smith@wku.edu.

More: [WKU's profile in A Review of Fifty Public University Honors Programs](#)

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